

INVERTEBRATE NOTES

New Books

Birds, mammals, amphibians, flowers, trees—these are all well represented in the world of field guides. As many of our readers know, invertebrates generally fare less well, although butterflies, dragonflies, and beetles have been featured in many books. Two new volumes help to give a couple of often-overlooked groups their due.

Fall can be a great time of year to observe spiders, and for those who live in North America, there is a beautiful new book to assist both arachnophiles and those new to spider identification. *Common Spiders of North America* (University of California Press), written by Richard A. Bradley and illustrated by Steve Buchanan, is the first comprehensive guide to North America's sixty-eight spider families, providing an enjoyable introduction to spider biology, natural history, collection, and identification. With beautiful illustrations of 469 of the most commonly found species, and

an easy-to-follow introduction to spider biology and anatomy, it is sure to engage a variety of readers.

A Field Guide to the Ants of New England (Yale University Press) by Aaron M. Ellison, Nicholas J. Gotelli, Elizabeth J. Farnsworth, and Gary D. Alpert may be the first user-friendly regional guide to these familiar but underappreciated creatures. The guide covers New England's five ecoregions: the Eastern Great Lakes Lowlands, the Acadian Plains and Hills, the Northeastern Highlands, the Northeastern Coastal Zone, and the Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens. With more than five hundred line drawings, three hundred photographs, and many regional maps, this volume explores 143 of the region's ant species and should prove fascinating to novices and experts alike. With so few ant guides available, even people who live outside of New England will no doubt find the keys in this book to be useful.

Giant Squid Filmed in Natural Habitat

A creature that has captured imaginations for centuries became a little less mysterious when the Discovery Channel released the first-ever video footage of a giant squid in its natural habitat earlier this year. In 2012, a team of researchers, led by Tsunemi Kubodera of Japan's National Museum of Nature and Science, and Edith Widder, of the Florida-based Ocean Research and Conservation Association, encountered

several of the leviathans in deep water off Japan's Ogasawara archipelago. Using innovative—and some might say, sneaky—techniques, they captured high-definition video of a squid in full attack behavior. Throughout the expedition, the team used extremely low-light techniques, employing infrared light and lures that mimicked bioluminescent signals. Generally, researchers have used bright lights when exploring